

BS01299

U.S. Application No. 09/995,648 Art Unit 2131
Response to August 18, 2006 Office Action

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated August 18, 2006, the Assignee respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks. The Assignee respectfully submits that the pending claims distinguish over the cited documents to *Sitaraman* and to *Hitchcock*.

Claims 1-30 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1-7, 9, 10-18, and 20-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,718,332 to *Sitaraman et al.* in view of U.S. Patent 6,460,042 to *Hitchcock et al.* Claims 8 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Sitaraman* in view of *Hitchcock* and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,078,918 to *Allen et al.*

The Assignee shows, however, that the pending claims are neither obviated nor anticipated by the cited documents. The Assignee thus respectfully submits that the pending claims distinguish over the cited documents to *Sitaraman*, *Hitchcock*, and *Allen*, whether considered alone or in any combination.

Extension of Time

The Assignee respectfully petitions the Commissioner for a two month extension of time from November 18, 2006 to January 18, 2007. The Commissioner is respectfully requested charge the 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (a) (2) large entity fee of \$450.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1-30 were rejected as being obvious. More specifically, claims 1-7, 9, 10-18, and 20-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,718,332 to *Sitaraman et al.* in view of U.S. Patent 6,460,042 to *Hitchcock et al.* Claims 8 and 19 were

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rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Sitaraman* in view of *Hitchcock* and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,078,918 to Allen *et al.* If the Office wishes to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three criteria must be met: 1) combining prior art requires “some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill”; 2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and 3) all the claimed limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MANUAL OF PATENT EXAMINING PROCEDURE, § 2143 (orig. 8th Edition) (hereinafter “M.P.E.P.”).

Claims 1-30, however, cannot be obvious. These claims recite, or incorporate, features that are not taught or suggested by *Sitaraman*, *Hitchcock*, and *Allen*, whether considered alone or in any combination. All the independent claims, for example, recite validation rules that “*chang[e] the data to be validated to ASCII character strings, the validation rules also changing a validation function from an IsBetween method to an IsMember method.*” Support for such features may be found at least at paragraphs [0037] and [0038] of the as-filed application. Independent claim 1 is reproduced below, and independent claims 12, 22, and 23 recite similar features.

1. A client-server computer system for use with web-based applications comprising:
 - a computer system running one or more web browsers capable of processing web forms;
 - a web server capable of processing Java code and web-based forms;
 - a storage mechanism coupled to said computer system, wherein said web server is used for validating data with information compiled from said storage mechanism;
 - validation rules stored in said storage mechanism, the validation rules changing the data to be validated to ASCII character strings, the validation rules also changing a validation function from an IsBetween method to an IsMember method, the validation rules comprising at least three hierarchically organized views, with each view utilizing an execution sequence of validation methods; and
 - comparing the data to be validated to the validation rules.

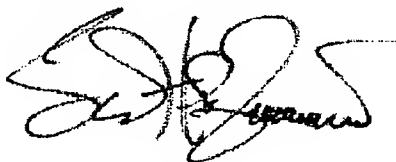
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Sitaraman, Hitchcock, and Allen are all silent to such features. Any combined teaching of *Sitaraman, Hitchcock, and Allen* fails to disclose validation rules that “chang[e] the data to be validated to ASCII character strings, the validation rules also changing a validation function from an *IsBetween* method to an *IsMember* method.” Because *Sitaraman, Hitchcock, and Allen* are entirely silent to at least these features, one of ordinary skill in the art would not consider claims 1-30 to be obvious. The Office is thus respectfully requested to remove the § 103 rejection of the pending claims.

If any questions arise, the Office is requested to contact the undersigned at (919) 469-2629 or scott@wzpatents.com.

Respectfully submitted,



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